

Hafa Adai!

'It's not a disability, it's a new ability.' **PAGE 2**

The Marianas promoted at Seoul Flower Festival. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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DFEMS battles massive fire up north



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS
A massive forest fire engulfs acres of land up north.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services faced a massive fire up north which was reported last Tuesday afternoon and remained active as of 7pm press time.

See DFEMS on Page 4



Torres' request for probable cause hearing granted

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Attorney Joaquin Torres, left, and former governor Ralph DLG Torres leave Superior Court judge *pro tem* Arthur Barcinas' courtroom following a recent court hearing.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Superior Court judge *pro*

temp Arthur Barcinas has issued an order granting former governor Ralph DLG

See **TORRES** on Page 4

AFTER 100 DAYS ON THE JOB

Education chief now has better understanding of PSS

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho shared what he learned, plans to accomplish, and improve at the helm of the Public School System to members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during their general membership meeting yesterday at the



Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

He said his first 100 days on the job gave him invaluable insights on how to manage

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Camacho shares his plans with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during the Chamber's general membership meeting yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

PSS moving forward.

"I am excited to be having

See **PSS** on Page 4

United Airlines says it offers lower 'resident' fares

» **Pleased with new Saipan-Tokyo Narita service**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Airlines, Inc. said it provides fares on the

Saipan-Guam route much lower than what appears to have been discussed recently by the CNMI Legislature.

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Anti-smoking groups sued the U.S. government Tuesday over a long-awaited ban on menthol cigarettes, which has been idling at the White House for months.

PAGE 9



WORLD

Taiwan's strongest earthquake in a quarter century rocked the island during the morning rush hour Wednesday, damaging buildings and highways and causing the deaths of four people.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Taylor Swift and her Super Bowl-winning boyfriend Travis Kelce, along with Sydney Sweeney, Ryan Gosling and Timothee Chalamet, are among the nominees for this year's Webby Awards, recognizing the best internet content and creators.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In recognition of World Autism Day, the Rotary Club of

Saipan invited members of the CNMI Family2Family Health Information Center to share a little bit more on autism awareness and acceptance during

‘It’s not a disability, it’s a new ability’

the club’s weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

F2F Family Support specialist Chrislaine Manibusan and Viktoria Buniag, an intern from Northern Marianas College, talked about the importance of learning to understand those with autism. Together with Rotarian Greg Borja, who is also the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, the three also addressed questions surrounding those on the spectrum.

“This month gives us the opportunity to not only highlight those in the spectrum but also educate the community of the importance of inclusion and acceptance. We can break barriers and build bridges of understanding,” said Manibusan. “Community support is very crucial in helping individuals with autism reach their full potential. As a result of working together it can lead to a more inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.”

In a post presentation conversation, Manibusan and



CHRYSTAL MARINO

From left, Family to Family Health Information Center intern Viktoria Buniag and Family Support Specialist Chrislaine Manibusan served as guest speakers during the Rotary Club of Saipan weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Buniag shared a little more about autism. “I think the community is well aware that there is a huge population of individuals with autism and it’s just growing. Now it’s not just making the community aware that these people exist, but more of assessing their differences and the different abilities they bring to the table. They have different talents, different abilities. Although they may not function like a

typical person, there are still a lot of things they can bring to the table.”

In regards to acceptance, Manibusan feels the community is more aware about autism now and is more accepting but there’s still ways to go.

“I believe in school and at home, getting young children more educated on how to be around different individuals in the environment would be great. I’m not trying again to target any population, but with the elderly, I guess at that time, they weren’t fully aware of these different individuals. So now, it’s out in the community and they’re getting to be more understanding, accepting, and also educated around these individuals.”

Buniag added to Manibusan’s statement, “I think also,

the role-modeling is a great help for children, especially young children that are typically very curious. If they have accepting and aware adults, then they could role-model those behaviors. But I think for the most part, we’re heading in a good direction.”

With two of Manibusan’s children on the spectrum, being a family specialist with the F2F group has been a breath of fresh air to her and many other parents and families who participate. She emphasized the importance of these support groups not just for those with autism, but for their families.

Manibusan shared that sometimes there’s stigma that keeps parents from admitting they need help and shared that in her own experience family members also need a support system.

“Prior to me being a family support specialist, I’ve always thought about going to a support group because not everyone can really understand where you come from unless they themselves have a child with autism. Of course, a lot of parents tend to shift to denial, just like myself. I never thought I would be blessed with a child or children with autism, but I learned to just love it, work with it, and see how I can help my children. I believe the child’s first advocate is their parents. I believed if I’m going to dwell in my emotions, there’s no way I can

See *ABILITY* on Page 4

18TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Board of Education Conference Room

Building 1241, Capitol Hill, Saipan

Via Zoom (see link below)



AGENDA¹

I. Preliminary

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments²

III. New Business

1. Authorized Bank Signatory
2. Comprehensive Accountability Framework
3. PSS Legal Matters

IV. Executive Session³

1. Legal Counsel’s Report
2. Personnel
3. Other matters

V. Miscellaneous

VI. Discussion of the Agenda for the next Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

¹ Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92945892682?pwd=Y1FqM0JLcFhDaU4yWTBTOHR4VDc0dz09>

Meeting ID: 929 4589 2682

Passcode: 981933

² Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

³ Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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The Marianas promoted at Seoul Flower Festival

The natural beauty and other attractions of the Marianas were recently promoted by the Marianas Visitors Authority at the annual Yeouido Spring Flower Festival in Seoul, South Korea.

As Seoul’s signature cherry blossom festival, the celebration attracted approximately 5,000,000 people to enjoy the beautiful blossoms in the city center from last March 29 through April 2. The festival, now in its 18th year, was held at Yeoui-seo-ro park with the theme of “Spring Flower Picnic,” providing picnic zones where visitors could enjoy spring. As the only destination featured at the festival, the MVA hosted an event booth—decorated in a blue reminiscent of the pristine waters of the Marianas—where festivalgoers engage in fun games, crafts, and other activities to learn more about the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Highlighting the activities were mwar-making, coconut leaf waving, and banana painting by Marianas artisans



MVA
Edrina Rabauliman teaches mwar-making as the Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at Yeouido Spring Flower Festival in Seoul, South Korea, on March 29-April 2, 2024.

Glenn Ruben and Edrina Rabauliman. Festivalgoers will have a chance to test their knowledge of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to win prizes, and a raffle draw was to be held, with the grand prize being two roundtrip airline tickets from Seoul to Saipan.

“As the Korean public embraces spring and begins looking ahead to summer, the Yeouido Spring Flower Festival is the perfect time to plant the idea of travelling to The Marianas



MVA
Artisans Glenn Ruben, left, and Edrina Rabauliman teach mwar-making as the Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at Yeouido Spring Flower Festival in Seoul, South Korea, on March 29-April 2, 2024. An estimated 5,000,000 million festivalgoers attended the event.



MVA
The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes the Marianas at Yeouido Spring Flower Festival in Seoul, South Korea, on March 29-April 2, 2024. An estimated 5,000,000 million festivalgoers attended the event, where The Marianas was the only travel destination promoted.

in coming months and intrigue those individuals making summer travel plans,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “This amazing festival under the cherry blossoms in downtown Seoul also was an opportunity to convey

the warm and hospitality of The Marianas, as well as a bit of our nature through the arts and crafts we shared.”

Marianas tourism partners—including eight hotel and resorts, two airlines, and six other local businesses—

were promoted at the booth, and 13 Korean travel agencies promoted their Marianas travel products via QR codes.

Participating partners were Coral Ocean Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Surftrider Resort Hotel, Jeju Air, T’way, Hertz Car Rental, Great Harvest, Surf Club Saipa, Sea Touch, Skydive Saipan, and WACO. Travel agencies promoting their Marianas travel products were Airtel.com, Bomulsum Tour, Gotouro, Hana Tour, Mode Tour, Interpark, Kyowon, My Real Trip, Online Tour, Tour Baksa, Very Good Tour, Webtour, and Yellow Balloon Tour. **(PR)**



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866
Fax: (670) 234-9021



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

RE-OPENING OF THE HOMEOWNER ASSISTANCE FUND (HAF) PROGRAM April 4, 2024

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is re-announcing the availability of the Homeowner Assistance Fund Program that was made possible through the US Department of the Treasury. In FY 2022, The CNMI was allocated a total amount of **\$4,158,268** in HAF funds, of which approximately 15% or \$623,740 will be used for administrative expenses and approximately 85% or \$3,534,528, will be used for the following types of assistance for **CNMI homeowners**:

- 1) Mortgage delinquency assistance- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$25,400.00 to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- 2) Mortgage payment assistance- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$20,400.00 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- 3) Past due and/or annual home-related insurance premiums- *an eligible homeowner may qualify for assistance of up to \$1,716.00 (not to exceed a period of 12 months) to be used for homeowner's primary residence*
- 4) Utilities and Broadband Assistance:
 - a. **Utilities:** Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$6,000.00 through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence **(to address delinquencies in utility payments inclusive of trash collection services)**. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$1,500.00 or \$500.00 per month **with future payment assistance** (not to exceed a period of 90 days or 3 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence.
 - b. **Broadband:** Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$600.00 through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence **(to address delinquency in broadband or home internet service payments)**. Each Homeowner will be eligible for up to \$150.00 or \$50.00 per month **with future payment assistance** (not to exceed a period of 90 days or 3 months) through this program with respect to the applicant's primary residence

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Homeowners:

- Must show proof of homeownership
- Must be a resident of the CNMI and the assisted home must be the primary residence.
- Must meet the income limit: less than or equal to 150% area median income or less than the median income of the United States, whichever is greater (See income limits below)
- Must show proof of experiencing COVID-related financial hardship after January 21, 2020, including a hardship that begun before January 21, 2020 but continued after that date
- Mortgage Delinquency Assistance: Must show proof of mortgage delinquency (must be at least one month delinquent)
- Insurance Arrears Assistance: Must show proof of insurance arrears (must be at least one month in arrears)
- Homeowner is at least one installment payment in arrears on one or more of the following: utilities, such as electric, gas, home energy, and water OR internet service, including broadband internet access service
- Statement of current inability to resume mortgage payments due to unemployment, underemployment or other continuing hardship
- Statement of current ability to resume any required regular payments after account is reinstated (OR) Ability to resume any required regular payments

Income Limits

FY 2023 HAF Income Limits Summary for Northern Mariana Island								
	1-Person	2-Person	3-Person	4-Person	5-Person	6-Person	7-Person	8-Person
Greater of 100% AMI or 100% U.S Median Income	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200
Greater of 150% AMI or 100% of U.S Median Income	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$96,200	\$97,650

The pre-application for the HAF Program will be available, starting **Thursday, April 4, 2024**, at the NMHC Main Office and Planning/HAF Office in Garapan, Saipan and the Tinian and Rota Field Offices. The pre-application will also be available online on NMHC's website, www.nmhc.gov.net (Public Notice/Announcements->Homeowner Assistance Fund Plan). Those who are interested in reviewing the HAF Plan and details of the program's terms can also visit the NMHC website. The application process will be ongoing until a notice is issued by NMHC and will be on a **first come, first serve basis**. Applications will only be accepted at the NMHC main and field offices. Should you have any questions, please contact any of the HAF admin specialists at (670) 233-0073/4/5/7.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

CDBG-DR Office
Tel: (670)233-9447/9448/9449

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP24-CHCC/GSS-011

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 30TH, 2024

TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING AND ON-SITE ASSESSMENT WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 3RD, 2024 AT 9:00AM AT THE CHC CONTINUING EDUCATION ROOM RIGHT BEFORE THE CAFETERIA.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP NO.: RFP24-OPD/MOTA-42400072

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 23, 2024

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“ASSESSMENT, DESIGN AND PERMITTING OF THE TINIAN (PUNTAN DIABLO) SMALL COMMUNITY EXEMPT LANDFILL (SCEL)”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BY APRIL 12, 2024, VIA EMAIL AT planning@opd.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH BALAJADIA
ACTING DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #05-2024

Opening date: April 01, 2024

Closing date: April 19, 2024

Location: **SAIPAN**

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Attorney

UNGRADED

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at jorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

\$10K bail imposed on ex-inmates accused of assaulting DOC officer

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed separate \$10,000 cash bails on two former inmates accused of assaulting a De-

partment of Corrections officer while out at a bar.

Last Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed separate \$10,000 cash bails on Leroy Villagomez Jr., 19, and Hitler



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Hitler Weilbacher is escorted by a Department of Corrections officer to his bail hearing



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Leroy Villagomez Jr. is escorted by a Department of Corrections officer to his bail hearing

Weilbacher, 27, for allegedly assaulting DOC officer Pius Yaroitemal Jr. at a bar in Garapan last March 23.

Villagomez and Weilbacher are both facing charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

After the bail hearing, both men were remanded back to DOC custody and were ordered to return to court on

April 10 for a preliminary hearing while their arraignment is set for April 15.

According to court documents, the Department of Public Safety received a disturbance in progress at around 3:14am on March 23 at Relox Bar in Garapan.

A responding police officer saw a group of individuals around Yaroitemal and

were assisting in wiping blood off his face.

The officer observed Yaroitemal's right eye was bruised, swollen, and closed with about an inch laceration above the right eyebrow and blood stains on his pants.

Yaroitemal was immediately transported to the Commonwealth Health Center's Emergency Room.

Yaroitemal told investigators that he was outside the Relox Bar when Villagomez and Weilbacher started cussing and pushing him. He said Weilbacher punched him on the left side of his face, causing him to fall on the pavement.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CCC submits \$4.2M FY 2025 budget request

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission submitted on Friday to the Legislature its budget request of \$4.2 million for fiscal year 2025.

CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero and CCC executive director Andrew Yeom informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Rep-

resentatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that they are requesting for \$3,150,000 for personnel, operations, and other costs per Public Law 19-24. The Senate and House received the request on Tuesday.

DeLeon Guerrero and executive director Yeom noted that CCC is also requesting for local appropriations in the amount of \$1,128,881 since casino licensee Imperial Pacif-

ic International (CNMI) LLC has failed to honor its obligations to pay the casino regulatory fees since 2020.

"Should the regulatory fees get paid, the commission will not need this local appropriations," said DeLeon Guerrero and Yeom.

They said they are submitting the FY 2025 budget request to enable the CCC to continue implementation of its statutory and regulatory mandates.

DeLeon Guerrero and Yeom attached in their letter to the Legislature a copy of the detailed budget request that Yeom and then-acting CCC board chair Rafael S. Demapan submitted to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and special assistant for management and budget Virginia C. Villagomez last February.

Yeom and Demapan said the \$1.1 million will be used for wages and salaries, board compensation, and other operational costs.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DFEMS

From page 1

Yesterday, massive clouds of smoke could be seen from Garapan as a result of the massive forest fire that started around Mt. Susu and travelled farther north to Wireless Ridge.

Saipan Tribune learned that as of 7pm press time, the fire had yet to be extinguished and it was last observed pushing toward the

Kingfisher Golf Links area. Fortunately, during this time the speed of which the fire was travelling had slowed as rain started to fall.

According to a press release issued by DFEMS, at around 3:21pm on April 2, Tuesday, a female caller reported that she could see visible smoke around Mt. Susu on Capitol Hill.

At around 3:25pm DFEMS personnel in the area saw heavy black smoke while passing Isa Villas and at

3:30pm, the fire was spotted from a look out point at Mt. Susu. There, visible flames were seen in the valley between Mt. Susu and Chalan Matuis Road.

Multiple DFEMS personnel and units were posted at this lookout point throughout the night and also made spot checks along Chalan Matuis Road to see the path of the fire.

At around 12:30am on April 3, the fire made its way up the ridge and toward the top of Mt. Susu.

At 5:40am, DFEMS said the fire looked like it started to die down as only small spot fires were still burning which allowed DFEMS personnel to make their way down into the valley to assess the situation.

However, at around 12pm yesterday, the winds picked up speed and helped move the fire towards Wireless Ridge.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ABILITY

From page 2

help them. I did have to seek help. I asked a lot of people who were in the public sector and I did link up with individuals who have children with autism. So, before I became an employee at F2F, I was a family leader, a parent leader, and then, that's when I was able to connect with individuals or parents who had kids with autism. I knew that the only ones who can relate are really those who have children like mine."

She shared that since 2019, the group has kept growing with over 50 fam-

ilies participating and several participants on Tinian and Rota.

"We don't just serve families with autism as we also serve families with children of any special health care needs. We do have three support groups going on."

When asked how her perspective changed since having a child on the spectrum, Manibusan got a bit emotional, sharing that because she had kids on the spectrum, it has expanded her perspective of the world as well.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FARES

From page 1

Dan Weiss, who is the United Airlines managing director for Global Government and Regulatory Affairs, also stated that United indeed provides higher priced fares than what appears to have been discussed by the Legislature, but which come with additional amenities such as booking into United Economy Plus seating (additional

economy cabin leg-room) and/or United's business class cabin.

Weiss likewise stated that United is pleased with the performance of their "relatively new" Saipan-Tokyo Narita service.

"This route provides travelers an additional connecting itinerary between the CNMI and the U.S. mainland and other points across Asia/Pacific served via Tokyo Narita," said the managing director in his letter to the CNMI Legisla-

ture on Monday.

Weiss provided some information to the Legislature regarding United's pricing on the Saipan-Guam route in his letter to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan). The Legislature received the letter on Tuesday.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TORRES

From page 1

Torres' request for a probable cause hearing in the ongoing contempt case filed against him by the Office of the Attorney General.

In an ordered issued by Barcinas last week, without giving an explanation, he granted Torres' request for a probable cause determination hearing further pushing back the former governor's arraignment in the ongoing contempt case filed against him.

In his order, Barcinas instructed the prosecution to

present testimonial evidence before the court on April 15 to determine if there is probable cause to try Torres with the charges filed against him.

"The evidence shall be presented in the same manner of presentation as a preliminary hearing. Testimonial evidence will be presented in court and the attorneys will be required to appear in court for the taking of testimony," he said.

The information filed by the OAG against Torres includes two counts: contempt and

misconduct in public office for committing contempt under color of office. The prosecution must present testimonial evidence in support of these charges for the court to determine probable cause against Torres.

The contempt charge filed against Torres carries a penalty of an imprisonment term of one year, or a fine of \$1,000, or both.

As for the misconduct in public office charge, it carries a penalty of an imprisonment

term of two years, or a fine of \$1,000, or both.

Previously, Torres' attorney—who is also his brother—Joaquin "Jack" DLG Torres argued that the penal summons served on the former governor was defective because of the lack of probable cause determination that shows Torres must answer the charges filed against him.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PSS

From page 1

our strategic planning institute that will happen in the month of June. As I explained to the board when I just came in January, I need at least three months. I told them give me 90-100 days to listen, understand the environment, and collect data. So, we launched surveys to all of our community stakeholders so we're gathering that data," he said.

He added that he had also been going to different sectors

in the system and speaking with individuals to get a better feel and understanding of the work ahead.

"Going out to the schools interacting with the students, faculty, and staff enabled me to take notes and get really good at understanding the environment so when we roll up our sleeves in June, we are able to then look at the artifacts and archival type information and data to be able to drive the strategic planning, but also have new fresh data that we've gathered over the 90 days and be able to use that as well. "

Camacho also reiterated PSS' strategic priorities that includes student success, accountable high performing systems, high performing personnel, effective and efficient operations, safe and caring schools, and communications and community relations.

It's also his hope for the community to have more engagement with the goings on and build better partnerships and coordination with PSS.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Uniting across seas: JRSC Guam's efforts in search and rescue

SANTA RITA, Guam—In 2023, in a relentless pursuit of excellence in maritime safety, the Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam team once again showcased its commitment to complex and agile search and rescue operations across the vast Western Pacific.

This commitment is epitomized through their recent collaborative exercises with international SAR entities, marking a significant stride toward operational excellence and international cooperation. As JRSC Guam observes the anniversary of the creation of Rescue Coordination Centers on April 1, their innovative efforts and dedication have rightfully placed it as a nominee for the prestigious Geoff Pagels SAR Professional of the Year Award.

"Leveraging our partnerships across this expansive region ensures the safety and security of those at sea. Our area of responsibility is the largest, making the value and performance of our team critical in every operation," states Lt. Kira Adams, JRSC supervisor. This sentiment underlines the crucial role of JRSC Guam in orchestrating complex SAR missions within a vast and challenging operational landscape.

Over the past eight months, JRSC Guam also executed a series of SAR communication exercises with the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center in Vietnam and the Rescue Coordination Center in Japan. These exercises have fortified international SAR collaboration and enhanced JRSC Guam's preparedness to facilitate effective rescue operations across its 1.9 million square mile jurisdiction—the largest SAR responsibility zone of any U.S. Coast Guard sector.

The exercises conducted with MRCC Vietnam and RCC Japan involved simulated distress scenarios, testing the limits of current SAR capabilities while paving the way for future technological advancements. Lt. Deb King, one of the exercise organizers, emphasized the indispensable nature of international cooperation, noting, "Search and rescue in this part of the world necessitates not just teamwork but a highly strategic approach. Our success hinges on our ability to collaborate seamlessly with our international counterparts."

Efforts in fiscal year 2023 highlight the JRSC Guam team's unwavering dedication through the coordination of multiple high-stakes SAR operations, including the rescue of two overdue fishermen near Nukuoro Atoll, three distressed mariners off Rota, the five-person Mama Loling crew conducting research off the Northern Mariana Islands, and three divers off Santa Rosa Banks to name a few. These operations saved lives and underscored the center's pivotal role in ensuring maritime safety. In 2023, the JRSC team was directly responsible for coordinating 232 cases, 46 lives saved, 137 lives assisted, and \$674,750 in property saved. While the case totals for 2023 might not be as high as some other regions, many of these cases represent multiple days of searching and significant international coordination.

"The vastness of our region, coupled with limited resources, necessitates an incredible level of cooperation. Our Operations Specialists demonstrate remarkable creativity and agility, managing international cases daily. Their ability to adapt and innovate under pressure is truly remarkable," said Lt. Adams, reflecting on the unique challenges faced by JRSC Guam.

As JRSC Guam continues to build on its legacy of excellence in SAR, the recognition as a 2023 nominee for the Geoff Pagels SAR Professional of the Year Award is a testament to their relentless pursuit of safety at sea. The Geoff Pagels SAR Professional of the Year Awards were established in 2023 to honor the legacy of the first Coast Guard civilian SAR Specialist. One award is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to the mission readiness of Coast Guard SAR Professionals. A second award may be given to recognize an individual or team for outstanding professionalism in the planning and coordination of a SAR mission. The team's innovative approach, international collaboration, and dedicated team ensure they remain at the forefront of maritime safety and rescue operations. The recognition is made at the annual Association For Rescue At Sea awards event.

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam team focuses on maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. With a primary presence in Guam and Saipan and over 300 members across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the team maintains a strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities. (*USCG*)

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Lions Clubs to hold health fair

The Lions Clubs International in Region 2 District 204 will hold its annual health fair on April 14, 2024, Sunday, from 7am to 12 noon at the Joeten-Daidai Social Hall of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

The event will provide free medical services such as blood pressure checks, sugar/glucose testing, diabetes awareness, distribution of reading glasses, vision checks, and general health awareness that will help improve and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The participants can avail also themselves of a free haircut and massage.

A reminder for those who will take the glucose/sugar test: don't take food or any drinks except water for eight hours before the test.

LCI Region 2 District 204 is composed of 12 clubs on Saipan: namely Saipan Fil-Am, Saipan Unity, Saipan Marianas, Saipan Alliance, Saipan

Natibu, Saipan Centennial, Saipan Pacific, Saipan Fitbeat, Saipan Infinity, Saipan Beacon, Saipan Eagle, and Saipan Legends Lions Club.

The clubs can create their projects on a club level to focus on the Lions' eight global causes: childhood cancer, diabetes, disaster relief, the environment, humanitarian efforts, hunger, vision, and youth.

If you are interested in becoming a member, you can call the region chair Annamae Adaza at (670) 285-4388, zone chairs Arceli Lizama at (670) 287-6758, Argie Buensalido at (670) 789-0218, Marcelo Masilungan at (670) 483-9440, Global Service Team vice chair Marie Javier at (670) 785-0099, and district assistant secretary Tes Marquez at (670) 483-6524. To learn more about the organization, visit their website, www.lionsclubs.org. (*PR*)

Emergency power service interruption on Tinian today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be an emergency power service interruption for the island of Tinian today, April 4, 2024.

■ **Power Service Interruption Time:** 9am-3pm

■ **Area(s) Affected:** Portions of San Jose Village, Marpo Valley, Carolinas Heights,

Marpo Heights, Broadway Estates/Housing, and Subdivision (see attached map with red lines).

■ **Water Wells Affected:** Maui II Pump Station

■ **Purpose:** To allow CUC linemen to de-energize utility lines to safely remove and replace leaning, defective wooden power pole on Feeder 3's main power distribution line.

tribution line.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as we work to ensure reliable service for our customers. For more information, contact our CUC Tinian Office at (670) 433-9265/9200, visit our website, and monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (*PR*)

Name: Arlene Sandra Satur
Address: P.O. Box 504493 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 286-0115

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for: FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0086
NOTICE OF HEARING

M.S.O. Minor Child(ren)

By: Arlene Sandra Satur
Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 10, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 8th day of March, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court



Cosmetology

Registration begins
March 11, 2024

Classes start April 2024

CURRICULUM:

- ✓ HAIR
- ✓ SKIN & MAKE UP
- ✓ NAILS

NMTECH



Construction Trade

Registration begins
March 11, 2024

Classes start April 2024

CURRICULUM:

- ✓ CORE
- ✓ WELDING

NMTECH

IN HOUSE Scholarship available



Baking & Pastry

Registration begins
March 11, 2024

Classes start April 2024

CURRICULUM:

- ✓ BREADS
- ✓ PASTRIES
- ✓ CAKES & COOKIES

NMTECH



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Ap The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Another budget-busting porkfest on Capitol Hill

President Joe Biden laughably passes himself off as a budget hawk. The soaring national debt and recent spending bills prove such assertions to be a glaring example of misinformation.

Last week, Congress passed a \$1.2 trillion measure to avert another government “shutdown.” Not surprisingly, it includes billions in pork backed by both Republican and Democratic members. The budget watchdog [openthebooks.com](#) counts about 1,400 spending initiatives that reek of bacon. Not a peep out of the president.

“It’s the Mary Poppins method of governing, where a little bit of sugar makes the medicine go down,” Adam Andrezejewski, CEO and founder of [openthebooks.com](#), told *The National Desk*. “Congress needs a little bit of corruption to pass these massive spending bills.”

A previous budget deal—which dealt with six of the 12 appropriations bills that make up discretionary spending—contained nearly 6,000 earmarks at a cost of \$12.7 billion, according to Sen. Mike Lee, a Utah Republican.

Reason magazine’s Eric Boehm highlighted a handful of the most egregious examples of unnecessary federal spending, including \$2.5 million for a kayaking facility in New Hampshire, \$2.7 million for a bike path in a small West Virginia town and \$3.5 million for the outfit that runs Detroit’s annual Thanksgiving parade.

A group backed by former Vice President Mike Pence also compiled a list of what it views as wasteful “woke” pork initiatives, including \$1.1 million for “climate resilience and equity” in Massachusetts, \$200 million for “gender equity and equality action” and \$400,000 to a New Jersey company that provides “gender-affirming clothing.”

House Republicans in 2011 banned earmarks, but Democrats reversed that move a decade later. To be sure, members of both parties eagerly engage in filling the federal trough as a means of currying favor with voters during their perpetual re-election campaigns. Defenders of the process argue that a few billion here and a few billion there have little impact on a multitrillion-dollar spending plan. But that’s the mindset that drives the nation’s descent into oceans of red ink.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan vetoed an \$88 billion — the number seems almost quaint today—highway and transportation spending bill, which he described as “budget-busting” and “unsound,” adding that “it represents a failure to exercise the discipline that is required to constrain federal spending, especially pork-barrel spending.” Congress, after two tries, mustered the votes to override the veto.

No president since then—Republican or Democrat—has exhibited similar resolve, and Biden will go along to get along. In the meantime, this president proposes \$7 trillion annual budgets that depend on borrowing trillions more. Budget hawk, indeed.

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If Biden wants independent votes, he’s going to have to work for them

My parents have a birding dog, a Gordon setter named Tillie. Sometimes I will take her for a walk, and every time we are out and about her hunting instincts kick in when she sees a squirrel. She starts to stalk, walking quietly in a slight crouch, hoping to surprise and then pounce. She’s been doing this for 10 years and she never succeeds at even getting close to snagging a varmint. Why? She’s oblivious to the fact that a human being is right behind her, signaling the squirrel that something is coming. I swear that once a squirrel looked at me while Tillie was in hunting mode and through some form of interspecies communication asked me, “Is this dog oblivious to the fact that she’s attached to you?”

President Joe Biden is acting like Tillie. His squirrel is the growing number of independent voters in swing states, voters who rejected Donald Trump in 2020 and MAGA replicas in 2022. He wants those independents in Arizona, Nevada and Pennsylvania, where their numbers increase every month—produced in no small part by a growing disgust with partisan politics. Team Biden thinks it can win their support by simply reminding independents how terrible Trump is. But — like Tillie — they are oblivious to the fact that they are tethered to something that will give independents pause.

Biden is connected to the Democratic Party. In fact, he is the Democratic Party. And there is no organization more oblivious to how it ignores and disrespects independent voters than the Democratic Party. It’s true, independents broke decisively in 2022 against MAGA candidates whenever and wherever they were on the ballot. But Biden should not mistake that for any affinity among independent voters for the Democratic Party. Far from it.

What’s this you say? What could you possibly be talking about? Trump is the threat! He’s talking about a bloodbath if he doesn’t get the outcome he desires! Surely the Democratic Party is a better alternative in the eyes of independents.

Possibly. But the Democratic Party has a way of insulting independents whenever it gets the chance (believing few independents are actually independent). And they have a dismal record whenever and wherever independents stand up and say, “We don’t want to join a party, but we want to vote in taxpayer-funded primary elections.”

The Democratic Party in the District of Columbia is actively opposing an effort to allow independents to vote in local primaries, the only elections of consequence. The Democratic Party of Florida — along with the Republican Party — filed a lawsuit (unsuccessfully) to prevent a ballot measure for nonpartisan primaries from being on the ballot in 2000. The Democratic Party of Arizona bars independents from voting in presidential pref-

By JOHN OPDYCKE
The Fulcrum

John Opdycke is the founder and president of Open Primaries, a national advocacy organization working to enact and protect open and nonpartisan primaries and enhance the visibility and power of independent voters.



erence elections even though they are publicly funded and administered, and the party rejected a rules change introduced by younger Democrats at the state convention in 2022 that would have made a change. The Democratic Party of Nevada opposed ballot measure 3, which would create a nonpartisan system for state and federal races. New York. Maryland. Kentucky. Oregon. The list goes on.

Some forward-looking Democrats are working to change their own party’s relationship to independent voters. Legislators in New Mexico and Pennsylvania are championing legislation to give independents full voting rights. Democratic leaders in five states, including Nebraska party chairwoman Jane Kleebe, have gone out of their way to change their party rules to allow independents to participate in their primaries. But these voices are a minority within the party. And if Biden really wants to inspire independents in key swing states, he needs to address the role his own party plays in either ignoring or resisting efforts by independents to gain full voting rights.

The traditional Democratic Party playbook is to appeal to independents as if they are “Democrats lite”: Focus on abortion, portray the other side as an existential threat to democracy. It’s not a bad playbook. It’s true that independents rejected almost every Trump proxy in 2022’s competitive races. But Biden should think long and hard about whether the existing playbook will work in 2024. Independents are growing rapidly. The vast majority of independents are dreading a Trump-Biden rematch. Many of them will be looking seriously at third-party candidates.

If Biden wants independent votes, he’s going to have to work for them. And that will involve challenging his own party’s opposition to granting independents full voting rights. He can’t just say “the Republicans are undermining our Democracy” and ignore his own party’s role in maintaining a partisan arrangement that excludes tens of millions of people from participating. He’s got to go further.

Or, like in Tillie’s case, the squirrel will just scamper away.

Raising Social Security's retirement age is the least bad option

By **KARL W. SMITH**
Bloomberg Opinion

Republicans in Congress have proposed a plan to shore up the Social Security Trust Fund, mainly by slowly increasing the retirement age from 67 to 69. Despite an immediate objection from President Joe Biden and top Democrats, raising the retirement age is crucial to the long-term health of Social Security.

As recently as 2020 Social Security took in more revenue than it paid in benefits. But the tables have turned, and the federal government expects the program take in \$1.17 trillion this year and pay out \$1.32 trillion. The \$150 billion shortfall will be made up by drawing down on the program's \$2.63 trillion trust fund.

That \$150 billion may seem manageable, but the problem grows larger each year. By 2032, the government expects benefits to exceed revenues by about \$500 billion annually. If we do nothing, the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted by 2034. If it gets to that point, the law requires a 23% cut in benefits across the board to ensure money coming into the program equals that flowing out.

No one wants to see benefits cut. The financial shock to seniors

would be enormous. Yet, unless some radical measures are taken, cuts will be almost impossible to avoid. Raising the retirement age to 69 would bring the annual growth of Social Security costs in line with the annual increase in revenue by 2030, according to an analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

It's not like such a move would be unprecedented. When Social Security last faced an insolvency crisis, in 1983, Congress passed a bipartisan solution that included raising the retirement age from 65 to 67 in recognition of increasing lifespans. The same rationale remains true today. Between 1950 and 1980, the life expectancy of 65-year-olds increased by 2.5 years from 78.9 to 81.4. From 1980 to 2019, it increased an additional 3.2 years to 84.6.

Critics argue that raising the retirement age unfairly punishes the poor because the life expectancy of lower-income Americans has risen far less than that of higher-income Americans. However, life expectancy is only one part of the picture. What also must be considered is the total amount retirees can expect to receive.

Under the Republican proposal, the lowest-quintile group by income could expect to receive more in benefits than they pay in contributions, while it's the opposite for the highest-quintile group. Consider an analysis of rising life expectancies by the Social Security Administration in 2009 that found the lowest-income quintile participating in the Social Security system saw their lifetime benefits boosted by about 12%. On the other hand, the highest-income quintile saw their lifetime incomes fall by 1.3%.

Moreover, this gap has grown over time. Over the past 25 years, the highest quintile has seen its net benefits shrink by 2.6 percentage points, while the net benefits for the lowest quintile have remained steady. So, even as higher-income Americans live longer, their Social Security return is declining.

There are a few reasons for this. First, Social Security benefits are taxable for higher income Americans. Second, much of the reduction in life expectancies for poor Americans is related to the opioid crisis, which primarily impacts Americans under 65. Finally, the program is fundamentally designed to provide a greater return on contributions from lower-income Americans.

Rather than raising the retirement age, Biden would seek to extend the life of Social Security through tax increases on those making more than \$400,000 a year, in effect repealing the Trump administration tax cuts for that group of Americans, a move that would boost revenues by about \$125 billion annually. Yet, that would still not cover even this year's shortfall, and would only extend solvency by a few years. In contrast, raising the retirement age would create savings that grow over time.

Stabilizing Social Security's finances has long been one of Congress's most challenging tasks. The sole major successful effort, the 1983 reform, was predicated on recognizing that longer lifespans necessitated an increase in the retirement age. Biden and leading Democrats must accept that the same reality holds true today even if it jeopardizes his re-election campaign. It's the least bad option.

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. Previously, he was vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina.

Why a TikTok ban isn't what we need

By **AYNNE KOKAS**
Los Angeles Times

The House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill in March threatening to ban TikTok unless its parent company ByteDance sells the app. It may take the Senate months to address the legislation, which faces some opposition, so a ban is not imminent. But the relative success of this approach highlights the narrow, problematic pathway for data security reform in the U.S. as we continue to avoid real oversight.

The authors of the House bill focused on national security, emphasizing concerns about the Chinese government's access to the data of U.S. citizens who use TikTok. Although dialing up national security concerns was an effective tactic to marshal some consensus, that strategy still may not pass the legislation—and it won't address the many security concerns that dog tech companies beyond TikTok.

The U.S. uses a so-called risk-based approach to tech oversight, which addresses problems only after they have already developed. By contrast, Japan and some European countries use a precautionary approach that tries to anticipate risks.

Tech firms have flourished financially under the U.S. approach: Companies can gather, use and monetize data with few constraints. In theory, such freewheeling innovation presented only limited national security risks as long as the U.S. was the dominant global tech player, competing with allies and partners. But China and wildly influential apps such as TikTok expose how that approach created a regulatory vacuum that affects consumer safety. TikTok might be less concerning if our federal lawmakers had to date taken comprehensive action to protect consumer data.

Instead of pursuing that broader goal, with its recent act the House targets ByteDance as a foreign policy threat and offers frameworks to designate other "foreign adversary controlled applications." Perhaps most troubling, the bill extends these considerations to persons deemed "subject to the direction or control of a foreign person or entity" without specifying what form such influence might take.

This would create a highly subjective system that encourages targeting based on national origin and passports—not the type of policy that attracts and retains the best and brightest international talent during an era of extreme competition for technical skills.

That is to say nothing of the message that it sends to people in the U.S. who have been rocked by increases in anti-Asian discrimination and the Department of Justice's China Initiative, which ended because of its controversial broad scrutiny of Chinese academics but which some lawmakers have sought to revive.

A common sense alternative would be to create guardrails that apply to all firms operating in the U.S. That would honor Congress' mandate to regulate commerce among states that currently have widely varying laws governing data.

It would also allow the U.S. to better align with its global democratic allies and partners, most of which already have comprehensive data security protections for their citizens. Indeed, though China allows alarmingly broad government access to data, it is ahead of the U.S. on protecting consumer data from corporations. For example, China's Personal Information Protection Law largely aligns with Europe's General Data Protection Regulation, with both measures tackling corporate handling of personal information.

Action from the U.S. president and Congress is necessary but not sufficient. A complementary strategy in the private sector would be creating metrics to rate companies based on their data security to help investors consider these issues in stock valuation, much like metrics tracking corporate environmental practices. Another possibility is industry standards for data security, comparable to Energy Star ratings that tell consumers a product is energy efficient.

From both the private and public sectors, there should be more funding for data security education through schools and libraries to teach children and adults how to think more critically about the use of their data. To counter the grip that online life has on many users, we also need greater investments for in-person communities, which can strengthen offline advocacy for consumer interests.

The House bill is not what we need. If the flood of calls from TikTok and its users to congressional offices is any indication, it's also not what many want. The legislation may, however, show the limit of what the current U.S. regulatory landscape can achieve. In a world increasingly defined by data, we'll have to expand beyond those limits.

Aynne Kokas is the author of "Trafficking Data: How China Is Winning the Battle for Digital Sovereignty."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Seabees and Superforts at War book signing

The Tinian Public Library is hosting a book signing for our new book, *Seabees and Superforts at War: Tinian's Critical Role in the Ultimate Defeat of Japan*, on Thursday, April 4, between 11am and 6pm. I will be there to make books available for only \$25, a special for Tinian for this one day only. The same will be true for *Tinian and The Bomb*, for those who do not have one.

I apologize to the people of Tinian for not doing this earlier, as the book was created for them. I had to conduct the veterans tour almost immediately after the books arrived on Saipan.

The book is actually a history of Tinian during World War II, beginning with the Japanese administration. It covers the planning stage (the decision to capture the Mariana Islands), the in-

vasion and capture of Saipan, the capture of Tinian, the story of Camp Chulu, the Seabee reconstruction of Tinian, the Army Air Force B-29 operations, the dropping of the bombs and demobilization.

Hundreds of photos and maps bring the story to life. The reader will be able to see how North Field and West Field were constructed, as well as Broadway and the harbor, including the breakwater construction.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Don Farrell
Tinian

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

Red Caesarism: Paranoid Paroxysm

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.






CANDIDATE TRUMP IN A SLUMP

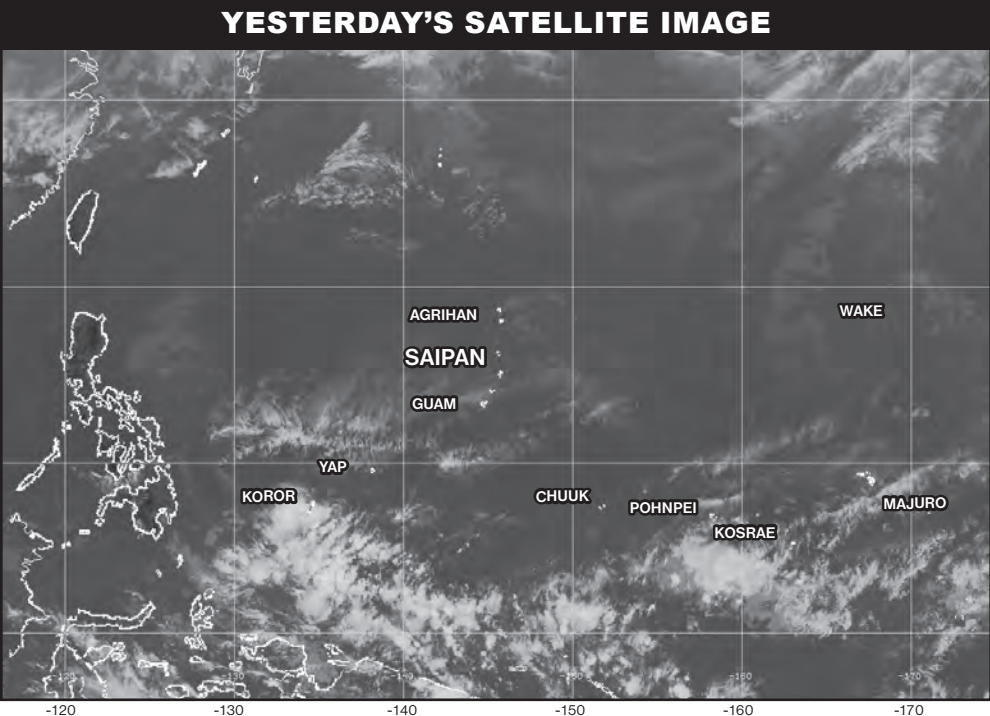
Trump in total denial with a persecution complex smile
In New York, Wash. D.C., Georgia, and Florida on trial
88 felony indictments? 91? are a severe financial drag
On retribution he brags, judges impose another gag
Candidate D.J. Trump finds himself in a serious slump
Millions in fines a bigly hump, hard to get a bond bump
From former staff many leakers, poor sales on his sneakers
People want to hear more from US military truth speakers
Former POTUS 45 has little money available he can use
Is that why he's doomed to lose? Voters will have to choose.

ZEITGEIST: BIGLY BLIGHTER CAMPAIGN FIGHTER

POTUS 45 is suffering from a bigly blight
Even though GOP sycophants offer no fight
He gets high ranking as polls reach a new height
On what "crooked left wing media" shed light
He fights for political survival with all his might
He is not going "gentle into that good night"
The world is aware of his financial legal plight
The GOP knows he's 'non compos mentis' not right
Yet thousands donate to his campaign web site
The time until his various trials is getting tight
Justice for all under a flag of red, blue, and white
Oversight committee indictments are not trite
Bible sales are slow for the hypocritical parasite
I want to tell the blatherskite to go fly a kite.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Breezy. Mostly sunny with isolated light showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 6:13 AM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly sunny skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. Combined seas are 6 to 8 feet, of which 5 to 7 feet is an east-northeast trade-wind swell based on wave model data.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Light Rain	86° / 79°	
Palau	Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 82°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	6:30 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:27 AM	1:59 PM	-
Friday	3:17 AM	3:01 PM	-
Saturday	4:03 AM	4:02 PM	-
Sunday	4:47 AM	5:01 PM	-
Monday	5:30 AM	6:01 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 61°	
Beijing	Fair	68° / 54°	
Hong Kong	Light Rain Shower	82° / 76°	
Honolulu	Showers	79° / 70°	
London	Showers	61° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Showers	59° / 51°	
Manila	Sunny	97° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 50°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 73°	
New York	Rain Shower	49° / 44°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Busan	Rain	64° / 54°	
Rome	Sunny	68° / 45°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
San Francisco	Showers	54° / 46°	
Seoul	Cloudy	74° / 53°	
Tokyo	Light Rain	66° / 55°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	53° / 48°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:05 AM	High Tide	1.77	
10:21 AM	Low Tide	1.29	
2:45 PM	High Tide	1.65	
10:19 PM	Low Tide	-0.10	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.						
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024						
SAIPAN TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily	
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily	
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily	
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday	
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday	
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday	
GUAM TO ROTA						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily	
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily	
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily	
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily	
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily	
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily	
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily	
TINIAN TO SAIPAN						
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily	
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily	
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily	
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily	
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily	
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily	
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily	
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily	

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Business

AFTER MONTHS OF DELAY BY BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Lawsuit seeks to force ban on menthol cigarettes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Anti-smoking groups sued the U.S. government Tuesday over a long-awaited ban on menthol cigarettes, which has been idling at the White House for months.

The lawsuit is the latest effort to force the government to ban menthols, which are disproportionately used by Black

smokers and young people. It comes amid growing concerns from advocates that the federal plan could be derailed by election-year politics.

Health officials under President Joe Biden initially targeted last August to publish the rule eliminating the minty flavor. Late last year, White House officials said

they would take until March to review the rule. Three non-profit groups, including Action on Smoking and Health, filed their lawsuit in a federal court in California after the March deadline passed.

"Because of defendants' inaction, tobacco companies have continued to use menthol cigarettes to target youth,

women, and the Black community—all to the detriment of public health," the groups state in their complaint.

A spokesperson for the White House declined to comment on the lawsuit Tuesday.

The Food and Drug Administration has spent years developing the plan to eliminate menthol, estimating it could prevent 300,000 to 650,000 smoking deaths over several decades. Most of those preventable deaths would be among Black Americans.

Like all major federal regulations, the plan must get final approval from the White House.

Previous FDA efforts on menthol have been scuttled by tobacco industry pushback or competing political priorities across several administrations. The latest delay comes as Democrats voice worries about Biden's prospects in a

rematch against former President Donald Trump.

White House officials have held dozens of meetings with groups opposing the menthol ban, including civil rights advocates, business owners and law enforcement officials. Some suggested a rule targeting menthols could suppress Biden's turnout among Black voters. In almost all cases, groups opposing the ban receive financial support from tobacco companies.

In recent months, supporters of the plan have tried to assure the White House that banning menthol will not hurt Biden's re-election chances.

"If Black lives truly matter, then we must end the sale of menthol cigarettes and do it now," said Dr. Carol McGruder, of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership, in a statement. McGruder's group is among those suing the FDA and its parent agency,

the Department of Health and Human Services.

A lawyer who helped file the lawsuit said the government will have about two months to respond.

A 2020 lawsuit by the same groups jump-started FDA's work on menthol, alleging that the agency had "unreasonably delayed" action against the flavor.

Menthol is the only cigarette flavor that was not banned under the 2009 law that gave the FDA authority over tobacco products, an exemption negotiated by industry lobbyists. The act did, though, instruct the agency to continue to weigh whether to ban menthol.

The flavor's persistence has infuriated anti-smoking advocates, who point to research that menthol's numbing effect masks the harshness of smoking, making it easier to start and harder to quit.

The Tropicana Las Vegas, a mob-era casino and Sin City landmark, closes after 67 years

LAS VEGAS (AP)—In the 1971 film "Diamonds are Forever," James Bond stays in a swanky suite at the Tropicana Las Vegas.

"I hear that the Hotel Tropicana is quite comfortable," Agent 007 says.

It was the Tropicana's heyday, a frequent haunt of the legendary Rat Pack, while its past under the mob cemented its place in Vegas lore.

But after welcoming guests for 67 years, the Las Vegas Strip's third-oldest casino shut its doors for good on Tuesday. Employees crowded the main entrance, cheering and crying, while tourists and locals watched the historic moment from behind a yellow gate. A tissue box made its way through the crowd.

Then, just before 1 p.m., security guards began locking up the Tropicana. The thick chains clinked as they were wrapped around the casino's gold door handles.

Demolition is slated for October to make room for a \$1.5 billion Major League Baseball stadium—part of the city's latest rebrand as a hub for sports entertainment.

Charlie Granado, a bartender at the Tropicana, said it's a bittersweet ending for the place he has called a second home for 38 years.

"It's time. It's ran its course," Granado said. "It makes me sad. But on the other hand, it's a happy ending."

The population of Clark County had just surpassed 100,000 when the Tropicana opened on a Strip surrounded by vast, open desert. It cost \$15 million to build three stories with 300 rooms split into two wings.

Its manicured lawns and flashy showroom earned it the nickname "Tiffany of the Strip." There was a towering tulip-shaped fountain near

the entrance, mosaic tiles and mahogany-paneled walls throughout.

Black and white photographs from that time give a view into what it was like inside the walls of the Tropicana at its height, playing host to A-list stars—from Elizabeth Taylor and Debbie Reynolds to Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. Mel Tormé and Eddie Fisher performed at the Tropicana.

Decades later, New Jersey resident Joe Zappulla was among the final hotel guests to check out at the Tropicana before the locks went on the doors. He spent \$600 for a room and fulfilled a Vegas fantasy: lying on top of a craps table on a casino floor.

"When else can I do this in Vegas?" he said.

Zappulla grew up hearing glamorous tales from his parents, who honeymooned in Las Vegas in 1961 and visited often, about their run-ins with the Rat Pack during the Tropicana's heyday. It's a version of Sin City that his parents loved.

"Old Vegas, it's going," Zappulla said with tears sliding down his cheeks. "So I'm really clinging to a little piece of that."

In a city known for reinvention, the Tropicana itself underwent major changes as Las Vegas evolved. Two hotel towers were added in later years. In 1979, the casino's now-beloved \$1 million green-and-amber stained glass ceiling was installed above the casino floor.

Barbara Boggess was 26 when she started working at the Tropicana in the late 1970s as a linen room attendant.

Now 72, Boggess has seen the Tropicana through its many iterations. There was the 1980s rebrand as "the Island of Las Vegas," with a swim-up blackjack table

at the pool, and the South Beach-themed renovation completed in 2011.

Today, only the low-rise hotel room wings remain of the original Tropicana structure. Yet the casino still conjures up vintage Vegas nostalgia.

"When you first walk in, you see the stained glass and the low ceilings," JT Seumala, a Las Vegas resident staying at the casino in March, said. "It does feel like you step back in time for a moment."

Seumala and his husband roamed the sprawling property during their visit, turning down random hallways and taking pictures of the purple-and-orange carpet, the wallpaper and the ceiling. They tried their luck at blackjack and roulette and made conversation with a cocktail server who had worked there for 25 years. They saved a few red \$5 poker chips to remember the mob-era casino.

Behind the scenes of the casino's opening decades ago, the Tropicana had ties to organized crime, largely through reputed mobster Frank Costello.

Costello was shot in the head in New York weeks after the Tropicana's debut. He survived, but the investigation led police to a piece of paper in his coat pocket with the Tropicana's exact earnings figure and mention of "money to be skimmed" for Costello's associates, according to The Mob Museum.

By the 1970s, federal authorities investigating mobsters in Kansas City charged more than a dozen operatives with conspiring to skim \$2 million in gambling revenue from Las Vegas casinos, including the Tropicana. Charges connected to the Tropicana alone resulted in five convictions.



Menthol cigarettes and other tobacco products are displayed at a store in San Francisco on May 17, 2018.

Trump sues two Trump Media co-founders, seeking to void their stock in the company

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Donald Trump is suing two co-founders of Trump Media & Technology Group, the newly public parent company of his Truth Social platform, arguing that they should forfeit their stock in the company because they set it up improperly.

The former U.S. president's lawsuit, which was filed on March 24 in Florida state court, follows a complaint filed in February by those co-founders, Andy Litinsky and Wes Moss. Their law-

suit sought to prevent Trump from taking steps the two said would sharply reduce their combined 8.6% stake in Trump Media. The pair filed their lawsuit in the Delaware Court of Chancery.

Trump's lawsuit claims that Litinsky and Moss, who were both contestants on Trump's reality-TV show "The Apprentice," mishandled an attempt to take Trump Media public several years ago, allegedly putting the whole project "on ice" for more than a year and a half.

But it also targets the pair over their Delaware suit against Trump, saying that it was one of several attempts they made to block Trump Media's ultimately successful plan to go public. Trump Media accomplished that goal by merging with a publicly traded shell company called Digital World Acquisition in March.

Trump Media shares have fluctuated wildly since its stock market debut. On Tuesday, the stock closed at \$51.60, up 6%, valuing the entire company at \$5.9 billion.

World

Taiwan's strongest earthquake in nearly 25 years damages buildings, leaving 4 dead

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's strongest earthquake in a quarter century rocked the island during the morning rush hour Wednesday, damaging buildings and highways and causing the deaths of four people.

Taiwan's national fire agency said four people died in Hualien County and at least 57 were injured in the quake that struck just before 8 a.m. The local United Daily News reported three hikers died in rockslides in Taroko National Park near the offshore epicenter.

A five-story building in Hualien appeared heavily damaged, collapsing its first floor and leaving the rest leaning at a 45-degree angle. In the capital Taipei, tiles fell from older buildings and in some newer office complexes, while debris fell from some building sites. Schools evacuated their students to sports fields, equipping them with yellow safety helmets. Some also covered themselves with textbooks to guard against falling objects as aftershocks continued.

Train service was suspended across the island of 23 mil-

lion people, as was subway service in Taipei, where a newly constructed above-ground line partially separated. The national legislature, a converted school built before World War II, also had damage to walls and ceilings.

Traffic along the east coast was at a virtual standstill, with landslides and falling debris hitting tunnels and highways in the mountainous region. Those caused damage to vehicles, though it wasn't clear if anyone was hurt.

Despite the quake striking at the height of the morning rush hour just before 8 a.m., the initial panic faded quickly on the island, which is regularly rocked by temblors and prepares for them with drills at schools and notices issued via public media and mobile phone.

Authorities said they had only expected a relatively mild quake of magnitude 4 and accordingly did not send out alerts.

Still, the earthquake was strong enough to scare people who are used to such shaking.

"Earthquakes are a com-

mon occurrence, and I've grown accustomed to them. But today was the first time I was scared to tears by an earthquake," Taipei resident Hsien-hsuen Keng said. "I was awakened by the earthquake. I had never felt such intense shaking before."

She said her fifth-floor apartment shook so hard that "apart from earthquake drills in elementary school, this was the first time I had experienced such a situation."

Hualien was last struck by a deadly quake in 2018, which collapsed a historic hotel and other buildings. Taiwan's worst quake in recent years struck on Sept. 21, 1999, with a magnitude of 7.7, causing 2,400 deaths, injuring around 100,000 and destroying thousands of buildings.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said a tsunami wave of 30 centimeters (about 1 foot) was detected on the coast of Yonaguni island about 15 minutes after the quake struck. Smaller waves were measured in Ishigaki and Miyako islands. Japan sent military aircraft to gather information

about the impact around the Okinawa region.

Taiwan's earthquake monitoring agency gave the magnitude as 7.2 while the U.S. Geological Survey put it at 7.4. It struck about 18 kilometers (11.1 miles) south-southwest of Hualien and was about 35 kilometers (21 miles) deep. Multiple aftershocks followed,

and the USGS said one of the subsequent quakes was 6.5 magnitude and 11.8 kilometers (7 miles) deep. Shallower quakes tend to cause more surface damage.

The earthquake was felt in Shanghai and several provinces along China's southeastern coast, according to Chinese media. China and Taiwan are

about 160 kilometers (100 miles) apart. China issued no tsunami warnings for the Chinese mainland.

Residents of China's Fujian province reported violent shaking, according to Jimu News, an online outlet. One man told Jimu that the shaking awakened him and lasted about a minute.

With famine looming, aid group halts food delivery in Gaza after Israeli strike kills 7 workers

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—Some of Israel's closest allies, including the United States, on Tuesday condemned the deaths of seven aid workers who were killed by airstrikes in Gaza—a loss that prompted multiple charities to suspend food deliveries to Palestinians on the brink of starvation.

The deaths of the World Central Kitchen workers threatened to set back efforts by the U.S. and other countries to open a maritime corridor for aid from Cyprus to help ease the desperate conditions in northern Gaza.

President Joe Biden issued an unusually blunt criticism of Israel by its closest ally, suggesting that the incident demonstrated that Israel was not doing

enough to protect civilians.

"Israel has not done enough to protect aid workers trying to deliver desperately needed help to civilians," he said, adding he was "outraged and heartbroken" by their killings.

"Incidents like yesterday's simply should not happen," he added. "The United States has repeatedly urged Israel to deconflict their military operations against Hamas with humanitarian operations, in order to avoid civilian casualties."

Ships still laden with some 240 tons of aid from the charitable group turned back from Gaza just a day after arriving, according to Cyprus. Other humanitarian aid organizations also suspended operations in Gaza, saying it was too dangerous to offer help. Israel has allowed only a trickle of food

and supplies into Gaza's devastated north, where experts say famine is imminent.

The dead from Monday night's strikes included three British citizens, Polish and Australian nationals, a Canadian-American dual national and a Palestinian. Those countries have been key backers of Israel's nearly 6-month-old offensive in Gaza, and several of them denounced the killings.

Israel already faces growing isolation as international criticism of the Gaza assault has mounted. On the same day as the deadly airstrikes, Israel stirred more fears by apparently striking Iran's consulate in Damascus and killing two Iranian generals. The government also moved to shut down a foreign media outlet—Qatari-owned Al Jazeera television.

WORLD BRIEFS

A 12-year-old student opens fire at a school in Finland, killing 1 and wounding 2 others

HELSINKI (AP)—A 12-year-old student opened fire at a secondary school in southern Finland on Tuesday morning, killing one and seriously wounding two other students, police said. The suspect was later apprehended. Heavily armed police cordoned off the Viertola school—a large educational institution including lower and upper secondary schools with a total of about 800 students—in the city of Vantaa, just outside the capital, Helsinki, after receiving a call about a shooting incident at 09:08 a.m. Police said both the suspect and the victims were 12 years old. One of the students had died instantly after being shot, Chief of Police Ilkka Koskimäki from the Eastern Uusimaa Police Department told a news conference. The other two were seriously wounded, he said. The weapon used in the shooting was a registered handgun that was licensed to the suspect's relative, Detective Inspector Kimmo Hyvärinen said. The suspect was detained in the Helsinki area less than one hour after the shooting with a handgun in his possession, police said. He admitted to the shooting in an initial police hearing but there is no immediate word of the motive, police said, adding that the case is being investigated as a murder and two attempted murders.

Japan confirms experts met in China to ease concerns

over discharge of treated radioactive water

TOKYO (AP)—Japan said Sunday its experts have held talks with their Chinese counterparts to try to assuage Beijing's concerns over the discharge of treated radioactive wastewater from the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea. The discharges have been opposed by fishing groups and neighboring countries especially China, which banned all imports of Japanese seafood. China's move has largely affected Japanese scallop growers and exporters to China. During the talks held Saturday in the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, Japanese officials provided "science-based" explanation of how the discharges have been safely carried out as planned, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry. A 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged the Fukushima plant's power supply and reactor cooling functions, triggering meltdowns of three reactors and causing large amounts of radioactive wastewater to accumulate. After more than a decade of storage in tanks taking up much space on the complex, the plant began discharging the water after treating it at least once and diluting it with seawater on Aug. 24, starting a process that's expected to take decades. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese President Xi Jinping at their summit meeting in November agreed to hold scientific talks by experts, and the countries have since held a number of informal meetings. Sunday's statement from the Japanese Foreign Ministry was its first public acknowledgement of the talks.

In Loving Memory of

† Pedro Rogolifoi Deleon Guerrero

Lovingly known as "Paduna"
November 3, 1943 – April 1, 2024

We cordially invite you to participate in a heartfelt Rosary prayer session, a cherished tradition of our faith, nightly at 6:30 pm from April 4th to April 12th at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

Memorial Services for our beloved †Paduna will be announced on a later date.

The presence and prayers of all family and friends are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Ghillisow

The Family

Life & Style

Taylor Swift, Travis Kelce earn Webby Award nominations, along with Sydney Sweeney, Ryan Gosling

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift and her Super Bowl-winning boyfriend Travis Kelce, along with Sydney Sweeney, Ryan Gosling and Timothee Chalamet, are among the nominees for this year's Webby

Awards, recognizing the best internet content and creators.

The International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences announced the nominees on Tuesday, the result of 13,000 entries from over 70 countries. The As-

sociated Press got an early look.

Swift's Instagram message encouraging her 283 million followers to register to vote was nominated in the best creator or influencer category.

The website she directed her fans to—the nonpartisan Vote.org—recorded more than 35,000 registrations, according to the organization.

Kelce, got a nomination in

the best sports podcast category for teaming up with his brother Jason for their "New Heights" show. Speaking of couples, Michelle Obama got a nod for her "The Light Podcast," while her husband, former President Barack Obama, was nominated for his work with LinkedIn.

The awards are selected by the Academy, while The Webby People's Voice Award is voted on by fans around the world. Voting for that award is open now until April 18. Winners for all awards will be announced May 13 at a ceremony hosted by "Late Night with Seth Meyers" writer and comedian Amber Ruffin.

Sweeney got a nod for collaborating with Ford Motor Company for a contest with the winner getting a 2024 custom Mustang GT designed by the actor. Paris Hilton was nominated for her 10-minute TikTok post about her family's hotel brand.

"Ted Lasso" star Brett Goldstein got a nod for his podcast "Films to Be Buried With," in which he brings on guests to discuss the movies that have most impacted their lives. He faces competition in the TV and film podcast category from podcasts about "The Crown," "The Last of Us," "Endeavor" and "And Just Like That..."

Police say JK Rowling committed no crime with tweets slamming Scotland's new hate speech law

LONDON (AP)—J.K. Rowling did not break the law with tweets criticizing Scotland's new hate speech law and referring to transgender women as men, the police said Tuesday.

The "Harry Potter" author opposes the law, which came into force on Monday and makes it illegal to stir up hatred on the basis of characteristics such as age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity.

Rowling is among critics who say the legislation could be used to silence so-called "gender-critical" feminists, who argue that rights for trans women should not come at the expense of those who are born biologically female.

In a series of posts on X, Rowling referred to several prominent trans women as men. Misgendering could be an offense under the new law, in some circumstances.

Rowling posted that "if what I've written here qualifies as an offence under the terms of the new act, I look forward to being arrested."

"Freedom of speech and belief are at an end in Scotland if the accurate description of biological sex is deemed crim-



J.K. Rowling poses for photographers upon her arrival at the premiere of the film 'Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald', in London, Nov. 13, 2018.

inal," she said.

Police in Scotland said the force had received complaints, but that "the comments are not assessed to be criminal and no further action will be taken."

Scotland's semi-autonomous government says the new legislation—known as the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Act—will help tackle hatred and abuse.

Critics, however, say it will have a chilling effect on free speech.



Taylor Swift arrives at the world premiere of the concert film "Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" in Los Angeles on Oct. 11, 2023.

Miranda Lambert, Billie Eilish, Nicki Minaj submit letter to AI developers to honor artists' rights

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stevie Wonder, Miranda Lambert, Billie Eilish, Nicki Minaj, Peter Dinklage, Katy Perry, Smokey Robinson and J Balvin are just some of the over 200 names featured on a new open letter submitted by the Artist Rights Alliance non-profit, calling on artificial intelligence tech companies, developers, platforms, digital music services and platforms to stop using AI "to infringe upon and devalue the rights of human artists," according to the letter.

The Artist Rights Alliance is an artist-led non-profit organization that advocates for musicians in a precarious digital economy.

The letter, while acknowledging the creative possibilities of new AI technology, addresses some of its threats to human artistry. Those include using pre-



Billie Eilish arrives at the Oscars on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

existing work to train AI models—without permissions—in an attempt to replace artists and therefore "substantially dilute the royalty pools that are paid out to artists."

"This assault on human creativity must be stopped," the

letter reads. "We must protect against the predatory use of AI to steal professional artists' voices and likenesses, violate creators' rights, and destroy the music ecosystem."

The full letter is available here.

Last month, Tennessee became the first state to pass legislation designed to protect songwriters, performers and other music industry professionals against the potential dangers of artificial intelligence. Supporters say the goal is to ensure that generative AI tools cannot replicate an artist's voice without their consent.

The bill—dubbed the Ensuring Likeness, Voice, and Image Security Act or "ELVIS Act"—goes into effect July 1.

"We employ more people in Tennessee in the music industry than any other state," Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee told reporters shortly after signing the bill into law. "Artists have intellectual property. They have gifts. They have a uniqueness that is theirs and theirs alone, certainly not artificial intelligence."

Co-worker, friend becomes outlet for others' trauma

DEAR ABBY: It seems I am a human landfill into which people dump their trauma. I'm not sure how this happened. It started three years ago, when an estranged friend called me and talked for more than an hour about what had led to him getting fired from his job. I was touched that he had reached out, and I expected us to resume our friendship, but he wasn't interested in much more communication.

Later, a work acquaintance invited me to lunch and began unloading the awful trauma she had endured 40 years ago. It was a one-way conversation, with not even enough pause for me to politely reaffirm what was being said. We never spoke after that because I left the company.

Now, a new co-worker I haven't made any personal connection with calls me a few times a week to "trauma dump." I try to change the subject, but her stories of abuse and peril never stop. In fact, I can put her on speaker phone while I loudly go about my business at home, and she'll continue talking. When she finally has had enough, she then abruptly ends the call.

I finally decided I'm done answering her calls. What can I do to ensure I am no longer seen as the trauma landfill?

DONE WITH IT IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DONE: This keeps happening because you are a caring, empathetic and polite person who has the patience

to allow these people to dump on you. The next time it starts to happen, say this: "This must have been terrible, but I am NOT EQUIPPED to advise you about it. This is something that should be addressed by talking to a therapist" (or, in the case of the former co-worker who called you, HR). After that, be less available.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Last year, a dear friend was attacked by dogs and killed. My family enjoys hiking on public trails. Lately, however, our walks have not been enjoyable. I become nervous and very upset whenever I encounter dogs off-leash. I usually end up expressing my fear and asking the owner to put their dogs on a leash.

My 16-year-old daughter is not comfortable when I do this. Her view is that the owners have trained their dogs well enough to be off leash. I disagree. I tell her that animals are unpredictable, and I am speaking out because my friend was killed by dogs. Please help us understand the best way to handle this situation which ends up in conflict.

WALKING SCARED IN WISCONSIN

DEAR WALKING: Your daughter's view is naive. Although the majority of dog owners are responsible and socialize and train their pets, not all of them do so, and the result can be tragic. Your friend's death is an example.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



When your daughter decides to hike, she should always have someone with her, and carry pepper spray or gel to ward off a (possible) attack not only by canines but also humans. (Sorry, that's a reality these days.) As for you, you might be better off emotionally if, for the time being, you get your cardio exercise on a treadmill in a gym or at home.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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James scores 23 points as Lakers win for 7th time in 8 games



TORONTO (AP)—LeBron James scored 23 points, Anthony Davis had 21 points and 12 rebounds and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors 128-111 on Tuesday night for their seventh win in eight games.

D'Angelo Russell shot 7 for 14 from 3-point range and scored 25 points, Rui Hachimura had 14 and Max Christie 12 as the Lakers handed slumping Toronto a 14th straight loss.

The NBA's career scoring leader, James shot 10 for 12 and had nine assists.

James came in having matched his career high with nine 3-pointers in Sunday's win at Brooklyn. The 20-time All-Star took just one shot from distance against the Raptors, connecting with 5:22 left in the third quarter.

Davis sat the entire fourth quarter, while James checked out with 9:22 remaining in the final period after Los Angeles extended its lead to 27, 109-82. The Lakers visit the Washington Wizards on Wednesday night.

James said he appreciated the chance to get an early start on his postgame routine.

"It absolutely helps," he said. "Every minute counts. I was able to get back here and get going on the treatment and my prep, and start preparing my body, hopefully, for tomorrow night."

Lakers coach Darvin Ham said he expected to have both James and Davis available against the Wizards, who beat Milwaukee on Tuesday night.

"We'll see how they feel when they wake up in the morning but, in all likelihood, I'm sure they'll play," Ham said.

James has scored 20 or more points in five of his past six meetings with Toronto.

"He's just so elite," Raptors head coach Darko Rajakovic said. "It's amazing to see a player at this age, after 20 years in the NBA, to play at this high a level. We never saw anything like it."

RJ Barrett scored 28 points and Immanuel Quickley added 20 for the Raptors. Toronto lost a franchise-worst 17 consecutive games in 1997-98.

Toronto's Gary Trent Jr. sat to rest, while Barrett and Quickley returned after missing time because of personal reasons and reconditioning. The pair combined for 17 points in the first, but the Lakers closed the quarter with an 18-4 spurt to lead 34-25 after one.

Los Angeles held a 64-58 edge at the intermission. James and Davis each scored nine points in the third as the Lakers stretched their lead to



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shoots against the Toronto Raptors during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 2, 2024, in Toronto.

100-79 after three.

"We challenged the guys," Ham said of his halftime message. "They responded with a big defensive third quarter."

The Raptors remained without five injured players, including starters Scottie Barnes and Jakob Poeltl. Toronto two-way player Jontay Porter missed his fifth straight game as he remains under investigation for gambling allegations.

Raptors guard Bruce Brown left in the fourth because of a sore right knee.

Lakers forward Cam Reddish was not available for personal reasons, while guard Gabe Vincent sat on the opening night of the back-to-back games as he returns from left knee surgery.

WIZARDS 117, BUCKS 113

WASHINGTON (AP)—Corey Kispert scored 27 points and Deni Avdija added 23 to help Washington beat Milwaukee despite Giannis Antetokounmpo's triple-double.

Antetokounmpo had 35 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists and reached double figures in all three categories by the end of the third quarter. That wasn't enough for Milwaukee, which came into the night with a 2 1/2-game lead over Cleveland for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Jordan Poole had 16 points and a career-high 13 assists for Washington, and Jared Butler provided a lift off the bench with 17 points. Tristan Vukcevic, a 7-foot rookie from Serbia whom the Wizards signed in the middle of last

month, scored 14. His previous career high was six.

Washington led 58-54 at halftime, then began the third quarter on a 12-1 run to stretch the lead to 15. Milwaukee shot 11 of 48 from 3-point range on the night, but the Bucks finally made a few near the end of the third, including Jae Crowder's shot at the buzzer that cut the lead to five.

76ERS 109, THUNDER 105

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Joel Embiid put Philadelphia ahead with four free throws in the final 40 seconds and finished with 24 points in his first game in nine weeks following knee surgery, leading the 76ers to a win over Oklahoma City.

Embiid added seven assists and six rebounds in nearly 30 minutes - but most important, he brought the confidence that the Sixers can salvage their season and make a postseason run with last season's MVP in the lineup.

Embiid was congratulated by Hall of Famer Allen Iverson after the game.

Chet Holmgren scored 22 points to lead the Thunder, who are in a tight race with Minnesota and Denver for the top spot in the Western Conference.

HEAT 109, KNICKS 99

MIAMI (AP)—Terry Rozier scored 34 points, capped by a beat-the-shot-clock 3-pointer in the final minute, and Miami inched closer to an Eastern Conference playoff spot by holding off New York.

Jimmy Butler scored 17 points, Bam Adebayo added

15 and Haywood Highsmith finished with 14 for the Heat.

Miami had a 16-point lead cut to one with 3:23 remaining, but found a way to hang on - and Rozier's eighth 3-pointer of the night with 34 seconds left, just in front of the New York bench, sealed the win.

Donte DiVincenzo scored 31 points for New York, while Deuce McBride added 24 and Jalen Brunson finished with 20 points and 10 assists.

TIMBERWOLVES 113, ROCKETS 106

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Naz Reid strengthened his case for the Sixth Man of the Year Award with 25 points and six rebounds, Anthony Edwards scored 19 points and Minnesota kept up their push for the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference with a victory over Houston.

The Timberwolves, who have clinched a playoff berth, tied Oklahoma City at 52-23 with seven games remaining in the regular season. Denver, which hosted San Antonio later Tuesday, began play a half-game behind the Thunder for the top spot.

Houston had a seven-game road win streak snapped and has dropped two in a row following 11 straight victories that brought it back into the playoff picture. The Rockets (38-37) are now two games out of the Western Conference's final play-in position.

Making his sixth straight start in place of injured Karl-Anthony Towns, Reid breathed life into an initially quiet Target Center crowd on Tuesday. The 6-foot-9 center

is averaging 13.1 points and 5.1 rebounds and shooting 40.7% from 3-point range this season, all career highs.

NUGGETS 110, SPURS 105

DENVER (AP)—Two-time MVP Nikola Jokic scored 42 points and outdueled Rookie of the Year favorite Victor Wembanyama in Denver's win over San Antonio to retake sole possession of first place in the West.

Jokic also grabbed 16 rebounds and dished out six assists. Wembanyama had 23 points, 15 rebounds, eight assists and nine blocks. Three of Jokic's buckets came on rare dunks, something he said he had to do facing the sensational rookie.

"He had like 600 blocks tonight, but we got the win," Jokic said after Denver leapfrogged Oklahoma City atop the Western Conference playoff race.

The Nuggets (53-23) took a half-game lead over the Thunder, which lost 109-105 at Philadelphia earlier Tuesday night. The Minnesota Timberwolves (52-23) kept pace with Oklahoma City when they beat Houston 113-106.

CAVALIERS 129, JAZZ 113

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Caris LeVert scored 26 points and Jarrett Allen had 21 points and 12 rebounds, helping Cleveland beat Utah.

LeVert started in place of Donovan Mitchell, who missed Tuesday's game due to injury management. Evan Mobley added 21 points for

the Cavs, and reserve Sam Merrill had 18 points on six 3-pointers.

Cleveland scored 26 points off 20 Utah turnovers and led wire to wire. It stopped a four-game road losing streak.

Brice Sensabaugh made six 3-pointers and scored 22 points for Utah, matching his season high in his rookie year. Collin Sexton had 19 points and six assists, and Taylor Hendricks added 18 points.

WARRIORS 104, MAVERICKS 100

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Andrew Wiggins scored 23 points and Golden State overcame Luka Doncic's 20th triple-double of the season to beat Dallas, snapping the Mavericks' seven-game winning streak.

Doncic, the NBA's leading scorer at 33.9 points per game, finished with 30 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists. His 20 triple-doubles trail only Domantas Sabonis (26) and Nikola Jokic (23). Doncic also recorded his 48th 30-point game of the season, second only to Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (50).

The Mavericks cut the deficit to 102-100 with 15 seconds remaining, but the Warriors were able to close out the game with late free throws from Klay Thompson.

Six Warriors scored in double digits on a night when Stephen Curry shot just 5 for 18 from the floor. Thompson and Chris Paul each had 14 points, Curry scored 13 and Moses Moody had 12.

KINGS 109, CLIPPERS 95

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Domantas Sabonis had 22 points, 20 rebounds and nine assists, and Sacramento beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Kings moved within one game of sixth-place New Orleans in the Western Conference as they seek to avoid the play-in tournament. Sacramento (44-31) is tied with Phoenix with seven games left, including a four-game trip that begins Thursday at New York. The Clippers are fourth in the West.

De'Aaron Fox added 20 points and seven assists for the Kings, and Keegan Murray had 19 points.

Los Angeles was without star Kawhi Leonard, who has a sore right knee. Coach Tyronn Lue said he hopes Leonard, who flew back to Los Angeles for treatment after playing on Sunday at Charlotte and has stayed relatively healthy this season, will be available Thursday against West-leading Denver.

Brewers remain undefeated to start season, beat Twins



MIL-
WAU-
KEE
(AP)—

Jackson Chourio singled in a run in his first American Family Field plate appearance, Christian Yelich homered and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Minnesota Twins 3-2 on Tuesday to open a season with four straight wins for the first time since 2006.

Chourio stepped to the plate with the bases loaded in the third inning after consecutive one-out singles by Rhys Hoskins, Oliver Dunn and Brice Turang. The 20-year-old followed with an RBI single into shallow right field.

"I was just looking to make good contact there and bring in the first run of the game," Chourio said through an interpreter.

Chourio, who signed an \$82 million, eight-year contract in the offseason before making his big league debut, is hitting .375 (6 for 16).

Home after a three-game sweep at the New York Mets, the Brewers never trailed in front of a sellout crowd of 41,659 that saved its biggest cheers for the introduction of Bob Uecker as he began his 54th season of broadcasting Brewers baseball.

Turang went 2 for 3 with an RBI single, improving his batting average to .500 (7 for 14).

Milwaukee is 4-0 for the fourth time after winning its first 13 games in 1987 and its first five in 1978 and 2006.

Yelich hit a 423-foot drive over the center-field wall and Turang added a two-out RBI double in the third as the Brewers boosted the lead to 3-0.

Matt Wallner had a sacrifice fly in the fourth and the Twins closed within a run in the seventh on Christian Vázquez's sacrifice fly, a run that was unearned because of catcher William Contreras' fielding error that allowed Willi Castro to reach. Hoby Milner preserved the lead by striking out pinch-hitter Kyle Farmer to strand Manuel Margot at second.

Carlos Correa walked to start the ninth before Margot hit into a double play and Carlos Santana grounded out as Abner Uribe finished a three-hitter for his third save in as many chances.

"With the way that we play sometimes and early in the season, and the way that they play, it's not surprising to see a good, well-pitched, low-scoring game right there," Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. "But when we do hit the ball on the barrel, we want to get something out of it. Overall I think we could



Milwaukee Brewers' Jackson Chourio hits an RBI single during the second inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins Tuesday, April 2, 2024, in Milwaukee.

have had better at-bats."

Elvis Peguero (2-0) pitched two hitless innings after starter Jakob Junis allowed one run and one hit over four innings in his Brewers debut.

Junis, a 31-year-old right-hander, threw just 47 pitches as he adjusts to starting after working primarily out of the bullpen for San Francisco Giants last season. Junis also had been dealing with a minor shoulder issue for part of the spring.

"He came in after the third and said he wasn't feeling great, but wanted to go back out," Brewers manager Pat Murphy said. "You could see he didn't have great extension in that fourth inning. We made the decision then, because it's about his health."

Twins starter Louie Varland (0-1) gave up three runs, six hits and two walks in four innings.

METS vs. TIGERS ppd.

NEW YORK (AP)—The scheduled game between the unbeaten Detroit Tigers and winless New York Mets was postponed by rain.

The game will be made up at 1:10 p.m. on Thursday, originally an off day for both teams.

ROYALS 4, ORIOLES 1

BALTIMORE (AP)—Alec Marsh pitched seven innings of two-hit ball, Maikel Garcia drove in three runs and Kansas City breezed past Baltimore.

Marsh (1-0) turned in the best performance of his budding career, dominating the defending AL East champions with an exceptional display of control. He struck out five, walked one and retired the side in order five times.

The Orioles gave their supporters little reason to stand up and cheer. Baltimore's only run came in the third inning on successive doubles by

Jordan Westburg and Colton Cowser, but that only served to cut their deficit to 3-1.

ANGELS 3, MARLINS 1

MIAMI (AP)—Tyler Anderson pitched seven scoreless innings, Aaron Hicks homered and the Los Angeles Angeles beat Miami.

Anderson (1-0) scattered four hits, walked two and struck out five. The left-hander was lifted after 83 pitches.

Hicks' solo blast in the fourth put the Angels ahead 1-0. He drove a fastball from Miami starter Jesus Luzardo inside the foul pole in right for his first homer with Los Angeles.

The Angels increased their lead on run-scoring singles from Hicks and Taylor Ward in the sixth.

Bryan De La Cruz homered in the ninth inning for the Marlins, who lost their sixth straight game to start the season.

RAYS 5, RANGERS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Zach Eflin took a shut-out into the seventh inning, Isaac Paredes hit a three-run homer in a four-run fifth and Tampa Bay beat Texas.

Eflin (1-1) allowed three of his five hits and lone run in the seventh, then was removed after Jonah Heim's one-out RBI single. Heim also had a two-out run-scoring single in the ninth off Pete Fairbanks, who retired Leody Tavares on a game-ending flyout with two on.

Tampa Bay has a home run and stolen base in each of its first six games, matching Cleveland in 1998 as the only teams since 1901 to accomplish the feat.

Yandy Dydzisz, hitless in his previous 11 at-bats, put the Rays up 1-0 with a third-inning RBI single that deflected off pitcher Andrew Heaney's

glove and into right field.

Randy Arozarena hit a two-out, run-scoring single on a 3-2 pitch off Yerry Rodriguez and Paredes drove the next pitch into left-field seats.

PHILLIES 9, REDS 4

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bryce Harper homered for his first three hits of the season, including a grand slam, and Philadelphia beat Cincinnati.

Brandon Marsh also connected for Philadelphia, which bounced back nicely after dropping the series opener on Monday. Spencer Turnbull struck out seven in five effective innings.

The two-time NL MVP hit a solo shot in the first and fourth innings against Graham Ashcraft. He capped Philadelphia's five-run seventh against Brent Suter with his seventh career grand slam, a 422-foot drive to right-center.

WHITE SOX 3, BRAVES 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Garrett Crochet pitched seven sparkling innings, pinch-hitter Paul DeJong had a tiebreaking homer and the Chicago White Sox got their first win by beating Atlanta.

Michael Kopech pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and gave up a solo drive to Marcell Ozuna with one out in the ninth. He walked Michael Harris II with two outs and gave up a single to Orlando Arcia, putting runners on first and second, before retiring Travis d'Arnaud on a pop fly for the save.

Gavin Sheets and Andrew Vaughn hit RBI singles, and the White Sox overcame two home runs by Ozuna to win after an 0-4 start.

CUBS 12, ROCKIES 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Cody

Bellinger, Seiya Suzuki, Christopher Morel and Garrett Cooper homered, and the Chicago Cubs pounded Colorado.

Bellinger's two-run drive off the right-field scoreboard at Wrigley Field was his first homer of the season.

Cooper hit a three-run shot in the sixth that gave Chicago a 10-0 lead. He also doubled and tripled in his first home start with the Cubs.

Nick Madrigal added two hits and three RBIs on a chilly, breezy night at Wrigley Field. Ian Happ and Dansby Swanson each had two of the Cubs' 14 hits.

Michael Toglia hit a two-run homer for Colorado in the seventh against Jose Cuas. Charlie Blackmon had three of the Rockies' seven hits.

BLUE JAYS 2, ASTROS 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Davis Schneider's two-run homer off closer Josh Hader with two outs in the ninth inning lifted Toronto over Houston.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. singled starting the inning, but Bo Bichette grounded into a double play. Hader (0-2), signed by the Astros to a \$95 million, five-year contract this off-season, walked Justin Turner to bring up Schneider. Schneider's soaring shot sailed to centre field to put the Blue Jays on top 2-1 and set off a celebration in the Toronto dugout.

Toronto starter Joe Berrios yielded six hits and one run in six innings in another solid start after getting the win on opening day. Chad Green (1-0) got the final four outs for the win.

Jose Altuve had two hits, and his solo homer in the fourth was all the offence the Astros could muster.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, YANKEES 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Christian Walker hit a three-run homer, Zac Gallen pitched six scoreless innings and the Arizona beat the New York Yankees.

Defending NL champion Arizona is off to a 4-2 start. The D-backs took a 3-0 lead in the first after five of the first six batters reached base on Nestor Cortes. Blaze Alexander, Eugenio Suarez and Gabriel Moreno all had RBI singles.

CARDINALS 5, PADRES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Willson Contreras hit a two-run homer off Yu Darvish in the sixth inning, and St. Louis beat San Diego to win the first two of a three-game series.

Miles Mikolas (1-1), who broke into the majors with San Diego in 2012, improved

to 3-2 against his old squad. He allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings.

Ryan Helsley worked the ninth for his first save in two chances.

GUARDIANS 5, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Shane Bieber pitched six scoreless innings for the second straight start, leading Cleveland over Seattle.

Bieber (2-0), the 2020 AL Cy Young Award winner, struck out nine, walked none and threw 55 of 83 pitches for strikes. He allowed six hits and didn't permit a runner past second base.

Emmanuel Clase pitched a one-hit ninth for his second save.

RED SOX 5, ATHLETICS 4, 11 INNINGS

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Trevor Story had three hits and two RBIs and Willyer Abreu scored the go-ahead run on a double-play grounder in the 11th inning, sending Boston to a victory over Oakland.

Abreu began the 11th on second as the automatic runner. He advanced on Reese McGuire's single and scampered home on Tyler O'Neill's 5-4-3 double play off Mitch Spence (0-1).

Ceddanne Rafaela made a great running catch in centre with one out in the bottom half, robbing Shea Langeliers of extra bases. Josh Winckowski (1-0) then fanned Lawrence Butler for the final out.

Winckowski struck out three in two innings. Five Red Sox relievers allowed two hits in six scoreless innings.

Langeliers and JJ Bleday homered for Oakland.

DODGERS 5, GIANTS 4

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mookie Betts hit his major league-leading fifth home run, Freddie Freeman had three hits and Los Angeles beat the San Francisco for their third straight victory.

Betts lifted a hanging changeup from Giants starter Logan Webb into the left-centre field bleachers in the third inning for a game-tying solo home run and the 1,500th hit of his career.

Betts finished 2 for 5 with two runs scored and a stolen base. He is batting .500 and has reached base in 23 of 38 plate appearances to open the season.

Jorge Soler led off the sixth with his first home run as a Giant and Michael Conforto singled and scored on a fielder's choice to bring San Francisco within a run, but the back of the Dodgers' bullpen held on.

Clark will take stage in Cleveland Final 4 loaded with star players, power programs



CLEVELAND (AP)—The final shows for Caitlin Clark's tour are booked in an arena just a short drive from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Hello, Cleveland. College basketball's biggest act—men's or women's—will close out her magnificent Iowa career this weekend in the Final Four after Clark delivered a 41-point, 12-assist performance in a win over defending champion LSU.

It was vintage Clark, and typical Clark.

"When the stage is the brightest, when the spotlight is the brightest, she's at her very best," Iowa coach Lisa Bluder said Monday on a Zoom call. "She loves this. Some people wither in the moment. She just gets stronger in the moment."

"When it's her time, she's going to just shine."

Clark, who has spent this season rewriting record books, signing autographs for adoring fans everywhere she goes and excelling despite enormous pressure, will lead the Hawkeyes (33-4) in Friday night's second semifinal against UConn (33-5), one of the game's preeminent programs back for a 23rd time under Hall of Fame coach Geno Auriemma.

In the other semi, undefeated South Carolina (36-0) puts perfection on the line against North Carolina State (32-6),

a No. 3 seed that already has pulled off two upsets in the NCAA Tournament and has sights on a third.

"Hey, we're coming to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, you got to crash the party, right?" Wolfpack coach Wes Moore said with a smile.

Make no mistake, this is Clark's party.

She has been the dominant story this season, a generational talent who has lived up to expectations and even pushed beyond them. So maybe it's fitting that Clark will take her last collegiate shots on the same floor where LeBron James rose from hyped high school phenom to NBA superstardom.

The game's best outside shooter, Clark has hardly missed.

With the stakes as high as possible on Monday night in Albany, New York, Clark came through. Naturally.

A year after losing in the NCAA title game to the Tigers and star Angel Reese, who famously taunted her in the closing seconds, Clark got even in the rematch with a few flicks of her right wrist.

She dropped nine 3-pointers while passing UConn great Diana Taurasi's tourney record for 3s, and Clark moved past Oklahoma's Taylor Robertson for the most 3s in a career for Division I players.

At one point in the second half, LSU guard Hailey Van Lith, who was given the impossible assignment of guard-

ing Clark, reacted with a shrug and a "what am I supposed to do?" expression after watching another 3 fall.

For Bluder, it was nothing new. But the setting made this more special.

"Her distant 3s were spectacular," Iowa's coach said. "We asked her to try to get to the rim in the first quarter. I thought she did. She did a great job of that. We wanted her to get some high-percentage easy ones to begin with, and she did."

"In the third quarter, when she took that distant 3 and she nailed it to get us going, I knew then we were in good shape. I never want to talk about her without talking about her passing. Absolutely unbelievable."

In some ways, so is UConn's presence in this year's Final Four, despite its blue-blooded pedigree.

The Huskies have been rav-

aged by injuries, forcing Auriemma to play four freshmen and leaving him with little depth. Fortunately, he's still got the marvelous Paige Bueckers, who has returned to her All-America form after missing last season with a knee injury.

Auriemma has had more talented teams, led by stars Breanna Stewart, Diana Taurasi, Sue Bird and Maya Moore, but this one is unique.

"There's something about this group that the intangibles are what's carrying us right now, that grit, that toughness," said the 70-year-old Auriemma, an 11-time national cham-

pion. "Will it hold up in the Final Four? I don't know. The Final Four, talent takes over in the Final Four. We'll see what happens, but that's been the story of this group for the last three years."

While 12.3 million viewers across America watched Iowa-LSU Part II on a celebratory night for women's hoops, Moore wasn't one of them. He had a legitimate excuse: game planning for the talented Gamecocks.

Moore spent the day in his office dissecting film of coach Dawn Staley and her Southeastern Conference champions,



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark reacts to the crowd before cutting a piece of the net after Iowa defeated LSU in an Elite Eight round college basketball game during the NCAA Tournament, Monday, April 1, 2024, in Albany, N.Y.

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DOLPHIN

From page 16

is glad that the event was successful. The event was hosted by the MHS Run Club, the MHS National Honor Society, and Run Saipan.

With the big turnout, Tang said it was a "very successful race." He said, "while organizing this event, us officers never expected 100+ runners, and we were shocked as the total registrations climbed above 200. We also didn't plan to receive the amount of support we got from sponsors, so thank you so much to all the sponsors."

He added that despite the challenges, the race was a success and they were able to distribute all the raffle prizes and present medals to the top finishers.

As to what it meant to hold the event in celebration of MHS' 55th anniversary, Tang said he and fellow organizers from MHS Run Club and MHS National Honor Society organized it to "bring the community together and students to celebrate this significant milestone in Marianas High School history. I am glad that this first student-led community race was a success, and I hope everyone enjoyed what the race had to offer!"

Co-coordinator Jayden Shin added that they were honored to host the event. "It is incredible to realize that our student-

led community race marks a significant milestone in MHS' rich history. It was a combination of our love for this school, the community, and running that led to the creation of the Dolphin 5.5K. We hope our colorful run showcased just how dedicated we were to making this a special day for MHS. Regardless of the challenges encountered during the organization of this event, I feel eternally grateful and proud to have been a part of it.

With coordinating the event, Shin said, "A lot of planning and hard work went into hosting the Dolphin 5.5K. We had a lot of tasks: writing solicitation letters, setting up registrations, obtaining color powder, timing runners, handing out bibs and raffle tickets, and coordinating with Run Saipan. With this, came challenges. There were times when organizing his event felt overwhelming and when I doubted myself. Thankfully, we had a wonderful team that constantly supported each other and that is what kept everyone going. As tough as it was, the task of hosting this event was a privilege and an honor."

As for MHS vice principal Romolo Orsini, he said the event was "amazing." It was "high spirited and had a great energy. It's a great way to grow a community. That's what we like to do at MHS, it's kind of

who have shown moments of vulnerability during March Madness but head into the weekend favored to cut down the nets in Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse on Sunday.

Moore said when he walked into the house his wife was watching Iowa and he caught Clark putting the finishing touches on LSU.

"I saw the last minute," he said. "But I've seen the highlights. I saw her up close and personal last year. We were fortunate. We went to Iowa a year ago and won. We held Caitlin Clark to 45. I can't believe I didn't have coaches calling me last year for my scouting report in the NCAA Tournament."

"She is amazing."

Some might say the same about the Gamecocks, led by 6-foot-7 All-American center Kamilla Cardoso. They've been dominant, but somethings shaky, and Staley wasn't always convinced this group would be one of the last four standing.

"I'm shocked," she said. "I'm shocked that we're undefeated. I'm shocked that we're here at the Final Four competing for a national championship. Our coaching staff put in a lot of work, and sometimes when you put the work in, it's returned in this fashion."

"It's caught us off guard, but I'm super happy for our players because they started from the bottom and then they're here."

to remind everybody that we are one big Mighty Dolphin family and we're all here to support each other. We're also very thankful to the Saipan community in general. Here at MHS you don't only have to be a Dolphin, we're all one big community and it's all for the students and succeeding," said Orsini.

Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Run Saipan president, said the event was a great collaboration with the MHS organizers. He said that MHS Run Club and MHS National Honor Society has the biggest pool of volunteers for road races hosted by Run Saipan, so Dela Cruz is thankful for the opportunity to cooperate and collaborate with them. He added that MHS should be proud of the student organizers as "they've been learning the ropes on how to execute road races for months, and now they're doing it on their own," said Dela Cruz.

Thanks were given to the events' sponsors: TanHoldings, Tan Su Lin Foundation, Hong Ye, House of Representatives, Run Saipan, Kensington, PIC, Aqua Resort, Latte Built, Gold's Gym, World Resort, New LC Market, Coral, Ocean Point, T-Bar, Regal Movies Saipan, Java Joes, Pizza Hut, Mama Rio's, and Cafe 670.

"I would also like to thank Jayden Shin and Edward Dela Cruz Jr. for their effort and support," said Tang.

KAGBROS

From page 16

only from within the paint, but also from downtown, with Zach Babauta and Damien Deleon Guerrero shooting one a piece, and John Nekaifes ending the game with back-to-back threes.

Lifofoi then powered through until the end as a one-man army and collected one point shy of 30 points at 29, followed by a longshot by Nekaifes at 13.

TanHoldings main shooter Christian Bravo was held to just 13 points, while Icesac Perez was right behind

at 12 points. Ben William and Dindo Pablo had twin 10 points.

In the first game of the night, Yuman beat Unity Trade, 107-96.

In the standings of Bracket B, KagBros is in sole possession of first place with their 6-1 record, followed by TanHoldings' 5-2, then Tax Pro/Triple L's 4-2. Next is Elite Force at 3-2; Longshot with 2-3; La Mesa Kusina has a 2-4 record; Stag is at 1-4; and Napa Auto Parts have yet to win with five losses.

In Bracket A, Choju is still undefeated at six wins; Pre-

mier Builders is at 4-2; Yuman is at 4-3 with Unity Trade; Best Deal and Bourbon Bar & Cafe is at 2-3; Savemore has a 1-4 record; and Live 2 Live is down in the dumps at no wins and five losses.

KagBros 93 – Lifofoi 29, Nekaifes 13, Ogumoro 8, Lisua 8, Z. Babauta 7, R. Babauta 6, Phillip 6, Santos 4, Sambile 3, Guerrero 3, Deleon Guerrero 3, Limes.

Tan Holdings 60 – Bravo 13, Perez 12, William 10, Pablo 10, Olopai 7, Dimaflex 6, Dela Torre 2.

Scoring by halves: 49-27, 93-60.

earning their spot to compete in the Oceania Championships," said Sikkell.

The next major event for NMI swimmers is the 2024 Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands from June 15-24.

Before then, there will be a paddle out to commemorate the late Jean Sakovich on Sunday, April 14. Sakovich was Saipan Swim Club's co-founder and 2004 CNMI Sports Hall of Famer. She passed away last January.

CAR

From page 16

and the NMI Swimming Federation covers the flight and accommodation.

With the car wash, they are hoping to raise funds for transportation (\$400 for a rental van to carry all nine of them) and their meals Down Under. Typically, meals are covered by the organizing committee. However, they opted this time to make their own arrangements to save on cost.



James scores 23 points as Lakers win for 7th time in 8 games
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Clark will take stage in Cleveland Final 4 loaded with star players, power programs
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16 THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

KagBros overtakes TanHoldings, 93-60

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

KagBros overtook TanHoldings for first place with a 6-1 record in Bracket B standings of the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 after defeating them, 93-60, last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

It was a nail-biter in the first few minutes of the game, with exchanges of baskets on both ends. TanHoldings kept close to KagBros by 1 point, 7-8, and 8-9, then took the lead, 10-9 from back-to-back shots by Ben William.

That was the beginning of the end, however, as KagBros went on to shut down TanHoldings' offense. With still over 10 minutes in the first half, TanHoldings became sloppy with their output while being defended well by KagBros.

TanHoldings' missed opportunities within the paint and uncalled fouls fast-tracked

them to a huge 10-25 deficit with just 7:32 on the game clock. Finally, after being stuck at 10 points for almost five minutes, Christian Bravo found an opening and ended their scoreless streak to make it 12-25.

After a timeout, TanHoldings tried to redirect and get things going again, but KagBros held them at arms' length with fast-break and more accurate plays by the speedy J.J. Lifoifoi. By the end of the first half, he already put up double digit numbers—17 points.

KagBros went on to dominate the rest of the game—*See KAGBROS on Page 15*



LEIGH GASES
Trey Ogumoro goes for a fadeaway as he's guarded by TanHoldings players during their game in the Legends Sports Association Invitational Basketball League Season 2 last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Car wash, bake sale fundraiser for NMI Nat'l Swim Team



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some members of the NMI National Swim Team heading to the Oceania Swimming Championships 2024 in Australia pose after their training session at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last night along with coach Richard Sikkell, back row, and assistant coach Christian Villacrusis.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI National Swim Team is hosting a car wash and bake sale fundraiser on Saturday, April 13, from 10am to 2pm at the Puerto Rico Shell gas station.

Proceeds will go toward their funds for the Oceania



Australia from April 21 to 24. The team is sending seven swimmers including Taiyo Akimaru, Jinie Thompson, Savita Sikkell, Michael Miller, Nagi Tenorio, Piper Raho,

and Moshe Sikkell, along with two coaches, Richard Sikkell and Christian Villacrusis.

According to coach Sikkell, parents/travelers were asked to make an \$800 contribution to cover the cost of the trip. These funds, including the support the team receives from World Aquatics

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Dolphin 5.5K run in celebration of MHS' 55th year a success

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The student-led Marianas High School's Dolphin 5.5K Color Run last Saturday in celebration of MHS' 55th anniversary was a resounding success according to its coordinators.

Pony Tang, a student-athlete



and a senior at MHS who was the main coordinator of the event participated by over 200 runners, said that he

See DOLPHIN on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runners are met with an explosion of colors out of the starting line at the Garapan Fishing Base during the Marianas High School's Dolphin 5.5K Color Run last Saturday in celebration of MHS' 55th anniversary.